



KENYA

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR ANDREW M. KIHURANI, DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
AT THE 107 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
(IOM) HELD ON THE 5-8 DECEMBER 2016 AT THE
PALAIS DES NATIONS**

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Chairperson,
Director General,
Excellency's,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ghana on behalf of the African Group.

We wish to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Council, together with your two Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur. We assure you of Kenya's support during your term.

We also wish to congratulate the Kingdom of Tonga on their admission as a new member of the IOM and welcome the Organizations that have been admitted as observers to the IOM.

We look forward to working with all of you in promoting better international migration governance and enhancing assistance to migrants in need.

Chairperson,

We commend the Director-General for his comprehensive and incisive report on the work that has been carried out by IOM touching on the state of migration, the state of the Organization and the state of migration governance. Indeed, the public discourse on migration still needs to turn to a more balanced and historically accurate narrative, while also appreciating the collective and individual contribution of migrants.

Chairperson,

Kenya has had a long standing relationship with IOM spanning over three decades, having been the first African country to join IOM in 1985 though the cooperation agreement was signed in 1982. This cooperation led to the opening of an office in Nairobi in 1993. IOM's programming has since grown to include more than 30 programmes, with the IOM working in close collaboration with up to eight Government of Kenya ministries.

An important element of this support is capacity building, which Kenya benefitted from in July this year, through the training of sixteen immigration and border officers from Kenya's Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, conducted by immigration and border management experts from IOM's African Capacity Building Centre, in coordination with IOM Kenya. This helped to strengthen the capacity of our immigration officers to manage borders, improve security and respond to various migration threats and reduce the vulnerabilities from terrorism, transnational crime and irregular migration across our borders.

Kenya appreciates this support, as well as the launching of the '2015 Country Profile on Migration in Kenya'. Migration policymaking is a key priority area in public administration. Migration is also increasingly a factor being considered in national development strategies and regional integration agendas as it has a direct impact on individual well-being and state welfare. The development of effective migration policies requires a sound evidence base with a comprehensive and reliable platform for analysis. This country profile has proved useful in our policy development agenda.

Chairperson,

Kenya wishes to give particular mention to the work being done by the IOM, through the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme. This aims at orderly, humane and cost-

effective return and reintegration of migrants who are unable, or unwilling to remain in host countries and wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin.

This ensures the integrity of regular migration through programmes which form part of a comprehensive approach to migration management, which includes efficient border management, effective asylum processing and resettlement of those who no longer have a legitimate basis to stay in a host country.

We therefore appreciate the partnership the IOM has provided in supporting and facilitating the process leading to resettlement of the returnees from the Dadaab refugee Camp in Kenya and elsewhere, through the project: "Facilitating Sustainable Return through Laying Foundations for Somalia in the Horn of Africa". This programme undertaken with the European Union (EU) is expected to contribute to sustainable and durable solutions for the returnees and vulnerable population in need in Somalia, thereby easing the heavy socio-economic burden on social welfare systems at the various destinations in the country.

Chairperson

Allow me to add my voice in congratulating the Director General and his team for their excellent leadership and guidance, as we celebrate 65 years of IOMs existence. It is evident that the Organization has grown consistently over the years, both in membership and in its budgetary allocation.

We take cognizance that the IOM guarantees a rapid response to the world's most impeding emergencies and that it has also quickly grown from a focus on migrants' resettlement to becoming the world's principal intergovernmental organization dedicated to the well-being, safety and engagement of migrants. We urge the IOM therefore to maintain this responsiveness.

Chairperson

The 19th September Summit held in New York, was a defining moment for the Organization in that it brought IOM into the UN system after 65 years. IOM, as the global lead migration agency, should therefore be at the core of the process of negotiating the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and must therefore become a strong partner within the UN family. Kenya supports the Director General becoming Secretary General at the 2018 International Conference on Migration, despite the challenges.

Chairperson,

Kenya wishes to reiterate that the Global Compact must be made meaningful in the everyday lives of the migrant while assisting and supporting Governments in their efforts to govern migration within a more actionable agenda. It's necessary therefore that the process be consultative with a clear focus on sustainable outcomes. It must substantially improve governance and cooperation on migration at the local, national, regional and global levels. We further support the position that discussions on the Global Compact be held within the framework of the IOM-UN Working Group in Geneva.

Chairperson,

We welcome the reforms and the initiatives that are currently being undertaken, to enhance the effectiveness of the organization and to strengthen its capacity to deliver.

In conclusion, I wish to assure the IOM of Kenya's continued commitment and support.

I thank you